

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 03392 131543Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 SSM-03 TRSE-00 IO-13 /087 W
-----041561 140228Z /70

R 131500Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8366
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 3392

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, PLO
SUBJ: PLO TO CURTAIL CROSS BORDER OPERATIONS

1. KHALID FAHUM TOLD BRITISH EMBOFF THAT ARAFAT AND MAJORITY OF LEADERSHIP IN FATAH HAVE MADE CRUCIAL DECISION REGARDING FUTURE PLO ACTIONS. ARAFAT INTENDS TO CURTAIL CROSS BORDER RAIDS ON ISRAEL WHILE STRESSING ACTION AGAINST ISRAELI TARGETS DEVELOPED FROM WHITIN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE BORDER CROSSING FOR SUPPLY AND COMMAND REQUIREMENTS, BUT THE PUBLIC EMPHASIS WILL BE ON DEMONSTRATING THE RESISTANCE OF THE PALESTINIANS LIVING UNDER ISRAELI OCCUPATION.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE PLO WILL SEEK A MODUS VIVENDI IN LEBANON CONCENTRATING THEIR FORCES BETWEEN THE LITANI AND ZAHRANI RIVERS. THEIR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO PERSERVE THEIR RIGHT TO USE LEBANON AS A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A MILITARY BASE OF OPERATIONS.

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3. FAHUM SAID THAT THIS OPERATIONAL POLICY WOULD BE COUPLED WITH AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL DRIVE BY THE PLO TO WIN WORLD-WIDE PUBLIC RECOGNITION FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. HE AGREED THAT REJECTIONIST GROUPS HAVE NOT SIGNED ON TO ARAFAT'S NEW POLICY, BUT ONCE SYRIA AND EGYPT ARE RECONCILED WITH SAUDI BACKING THE REJECTIONISTS CAN BE

ISOLATED AND CONTROLLED.

4. COMMENT: FAHUM'S STATEMENTS TEND TO HAVE A "MADE IN SYRIA"
LABEL ON THEM. HOW MUCH OF THIS IS SYRIAN WISHFUL THINKING
IS HARD TO SAY. A SPECTACULAR REJECTIONIST CROSS-BORDER
OPERATION INTO ISRAEL WOULD PUT TREMENDOUS PRESSURE ON
FATAH TO FOLLOW SUIT AND WE HAVE YET TO SEE ANY REAL EVIDENCE
THAT ARAFAT HAS THE NECESSARY INCLINATION TO BRING
THE REJECTIONIST UNDER STRICT CONTROL.
PELLETREAU

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NNN

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